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The Battalion

## Students help design house for McDonald's

By Troy D. Hall  
The Battalion

Two upper-level Texas A&M architecture classes and Ronald McDonald House officials are working together to design the "ideal" home.

The Ronald McDonald House program was established in 1984 in memory of McDonald's Corp. founder Ray Kroc.

Since 1984, the Ronald McDonald House program has housed cancer-stricken children, their parents and siblings when children receive cancer treatment at hospitals.

The child and the family stay for days or even weeks.

Ronald McDonald Houses are an inexpensive way for parents to stay with their children, while gaining emotional support from other families staying in the houses, says George Mann, an A&M architecture professor and project coordinator.

Lodging costs are kept at a minimum, usually between \$5 and \$15. More than 130 Ronald McDonald Houses are located in the United States and around the world.

A&M architecture students from ENDS 303 and ENDS 404 classes are using their skills to research already built Ronald McDonald Houses and take the best characteristics to make the "ideal" home.

"Many houses are older and need renovations," says Sean Kirton, a graduate student in architectural design from Temple. "We want to find out what's missing from these older houses."

Kirton will tour eight of the 12 Ronald McDonald Houses in Texas and study the positive and negative design aspects of each house.

"I will make a proposal for building the 'ideal' house after touring the eight houses," he says.

Kirton will visit houses in Dallas, Fort Worth, Temple, Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Galveston and Corpus Christi.

This project is of interest to builders in the United States as well as internationally, he says.

Since each Ronald McDonald House is locally owned and operated, communicating the "ideal" house will be beneficial for people wanting to open a house in a foreign country, said Henry Lienau, Ronald McDonald House national coordinator, in a letter to Mann.

In addition to the tour, students in Mann's architectural design classes are proposing their own "ideal" Ronald McDonald House.

Students presented eight projects on March 6. Each project was planned for a specific city from areas of the world.

Kenneth Falcon, a graduate student in architectural design from Dallas, says the design process has three stages.

The first step is developing the program, he says. The design development stage is next, followed by the final presentation.

The project helps both the Ronald McDonald House and A&M, Falcon says.

"It is important to actually work with real companies and work on real projects," Falcon says.



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

### Two loyal fans

Evelyn Stanley and her dog Ginger take in the Texas A&M-Arizona baseball game at Olsen Field Sunday. Stanley has been bringing Ginger to baseball games for nearly ten years, since Ginger was a puppy, and the

two still attend games even though Stanley is not allowed to sit in the stands with Ginger anymore. For results of the game and other sports action during spring break, see page 7.

### A&M service co-sponsors antidrug conference

The Texas Engineering Extension Service is co-sponsoring a conference today and Tuesday in Austin to plot battle plans for a counterattack in the war on drugs at Texas' first statewide drug conference.

"Drugs in Our Communities: A Challenge to Leadership" is co-sponsored by TEES, a part of the Texas A&M University System.

The Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the federal government's Department of Education and Drug Enforcement Agency also sponsor the meeting.

The conference at the Capitol Marriott is designed to arm community leaders with proven drug-fighting strategies.

Workshops will address development of a

drug-free workplace, community mobilization, alternatives to incarceration and drug-free school zones.

Featured speakers include Reuben Greenberg, chief of police, Charleston, S.C., and Philip Oliver-Diaz, an assistant deputy director with the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

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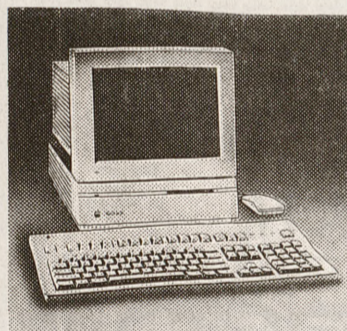


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